

**ALBINISM IN A MALE OF
COENONYMPHA LEANDER LEANDER (ESPER, [1784])
(LEP.: NYMPHALIDAE: SATYRINAE)**

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THE RUSSIAN Heath *Coenonympha leander* (Esper, [1784]) is well known as a polytypic species. The nominate subspecies is mentioned in connection with Bulgarian colonies (Abadjiev, 1993: 76). Stating the polytypism here it is necessary to reveal that this taxon exhibits a wide range of variations at an infrasubspecific level. They are in their great part individual. Many of the specimens collected during my regular visits to localities of the species in SW Bulgaria differ from each other in ocelli number, amount of the fulvous flush in the basal and discal part of the forewing, etc. It can be said that it is simply difficult to find two identical specimens, even in a same locality.

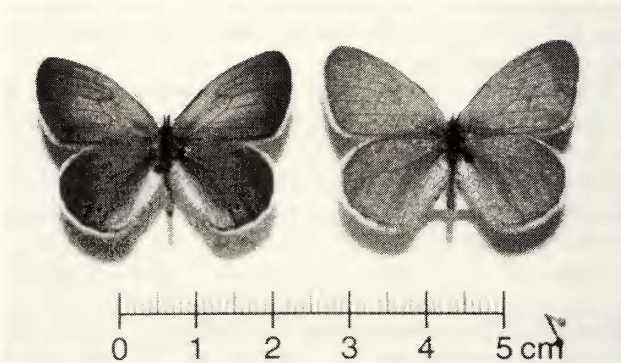


Figure 1. Males of *Coenonympha leander leander* (Esper, [1784]): (left) normally pigmented, Bulgaria: Osogovo Mts: Kyustendil: 22.V.1993: S. Abadjiev leg. et coll.; (right) albino, Bulgaria: Iskar Valley: Panharevo Gorge: 28.V.1998: S. Abadjiev leg. et coll.

Within this great variability special attention requires an interesting aberrant male with strong tendency to albinism, here illustrated (Fig. 1 right). Compared with the more or less normally coloured specimens (Fig. 1 left) it is the sole specimen I have seen with such a strong reduction of the black pigment. This reduction is especially well pronounced on the upper side of the wings. Other colours are not affected.

Reference

Abadjiev, S., 1993. *Butterflies of Bulgaria, Part 2, Nymphalidae: Libytheinae & Satyrinae*. Verena Publishers, Sofia.